



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

County Commissioner Carolyn McGinn Presents Illegal Dumping Crackdown Plan

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Sedgwick County Commission Chair Carolyn McGinn presented a plan today for cracking down on illegal dumping in Sedgwick County. The plan includes three components: enforcement, citizen watch groups and tracking illegal dumping incidents.

Commissioner McGinn indicated that while illegal dumping incidents have not increased over the last year, there is an increased danger due to meth lab dumping. There were over 200 illegal dumping incidents reported to the Sheriff's Department in Sedgwick County last year, with 10 meth lab dumping incidents.

"Even though illegal dumping is not on the increase, it is a problem for our citizens because of the meth lab dumping," said Commissioner McGinn. "And, we need the citizens to help us watch for illegal activity and report illegal dumping incidents immediately to 9-1-1," she said.

McGinn also will ask the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners to increase the fines for illegal dumping to up to \$1000. Currently, the fines begin at \$100 per incident, with a maximum of \$400.

“The Sedgwick County Sheriff’s Department will partner with us to help ticket offenders,” said McGinn. “And, Sheriff’s deputies will help us to educate citizens about how to spot dangerous meth lab dumping sites and how to report any illegal dumping incidents,” she said.

As part of the citizen watch, Sedgwick County has created signs that citizens in the County can post to help curb illegal dumping. The signs say, “My Neighbors Are Watching You. Don’t Dump Here” and will be available within the next few months.

“This has been important to me for quite some time,” said Commissioner McGinn. “I think that citizens are the key to the success of this program, to help report illegal dumping. The assistance of the Sheriff’s Department and the stiffer fines will also help to reduce this problem in the future,” she said.

(** Artwork for the citizen watch signs will be e-mailed.)

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